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14 Angelique L.M. Clark

15 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

16 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

17 * * *

18 In re:
19 CETUS MORTGAGE, LTD.
20 Debtor.

Case No. BK-08-51131-GWZ
Chapter 7

21 /
22 ANGELIQUE L.M. CLARK,
23 TRUSTEE,

Adv. No. _____

24 Plaintiff,

25 vs. COMPLAINT TO AVOID TRANSFERS
26 PURSUANT TO 11 USC §§ 544,
27 548(a) AND/OR NRS § 112.180

PETE CLADIANOS, JR., Trustee
of the Antonia Cladianos II
Second Amended Trust

28 Defendant.
29 /

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2 Plaintiff Angelique L.M. Clark, Trustee, by and through her counsel Woodburn
3 and Wedge complains and alleges as follows:
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PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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7 1. This case presents claims that arise under Title 11 USC and, therefore,
8 this Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the provisions of 28 USC §
9 1334(b).

10
11 2. This matter presents issues relating to the determination, avoidance and
12 recovery of fraudulent conveyances and, therefore, the claims alleged herein are core
13 proceedings under the provisions of 28 USC § 157(b)(2) (H).

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15 3. This Court is a proper venue for this case under the provisions of 28 USC
16 § 1409(a).

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18 4. Plaintiff Angelique L.M. Clark ("Clark") is the duly appointed trustee of the
19 Chapter 7 bankruptcy estate of Cetus Mortgage, Ltd. ("Cetus") pending before this Court
20 as Case No. BK-08-51131 ("Bankruptcy").

21
22 5. The Defendant conducted business with Cetus within Washoe County,
23 Nevada, and the claims asserted herein relate to such business activities.

24
25 6. Clark is uncertain whether the Defendant's full legal name, the nature of
26 the Defendant's existence (corporation, partnership, limited liability company, etc.) and
27 the named Trustee(s) of the Trust, if applicable, are correct and, therefore, reserves the
28 right to amend this Complaint at the appropriate time to properly identify the Defendants.

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II

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7. At all times relevant to the matters alleged herein, Cetus was a Nevada corporation doing business in Washoe County, Nevada.

8. Cetus was licensed as a mortgage company by the Mortgage Lending Division of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry and was engaged in the business of brokering and servicing loans secured by residential and commercial properties located mostly in Northern Nevada.

9. Typically, loans brokered by Cetus were funded by investments solicited from third party investors willing to loan funds to Cetus borrowers. The loans brokered by Cetus were occasionally funded by a single investor, but in most instances the loans were funded with monies pooled from a group of investors.

10. In July 2008, the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending seized Cetus' assets on the basis of several complaints from investors that Cetus had:

- A. Forged signatures on property conveyances;
- B. Altered property descriptions in deeds of trust without proper authorization;
- C. Failed to properly account for investors' funds; and
- D. Committed other violations of law.

11. Cetus allowed its Nevada mortgage company license to expire without renewal on June 30, 2008.

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1 12. Cetus filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United
2 States Bankruptcy Code with this Court on July 9, 2008, commencing the above captioned
3 Bankruptcy.

4 13. On July 17, 2008, Clark was appointed Trustee of Cetus' bankruptcy estate
5 pursuant to the provisions of 11 USC § 1104. Cetus' Chapter 11 case was converted to
6 Chapter 7 proceedings on August 19, 2008, and Clark was subsequently appointed
7 Trustee of Cetus' Chapter 7 estate.

8 14. Pursuant to 11 USC § 704, one of the duties of bankruptcy trustees is to
9 investigate the financial affairs of the debtor. Clark has investigated, and continues to
10 investigate, Cetus' financial affairs. To date, Clark's investigation has revealed, among
11 other things, that:

- 12 A. Contrary to Nevada State law and regulations governing mortgage
13 companies, Cetus commingled investors' funds;
- 14 B. Cetus used monies invested by lenders for purposes other than for which
15 they were invested; and
- 16 C. Cetus, in some instances, failed to repay investors when loans they funded
17 were paid in full by the borrowers and, instead, used the repayment funds to
18 pay other investor claims or fund its operations. In turn, Cetus used other
19 investors' investment funds to continue to pay interest to the prior investors
20 to make it appear borrowers were still making interest payments on the
21 loans.

22 15. Based upon her investigations to date, Clark alleges that Cetus was
23 engaged in a phony investment scheme in which:

- 24 A. Monies paid by later investors were, at times, used to pay returns on
25 investments to earlier investors while no actual return had been received on
26 behalf of the earlier investors;
- 27 B. Monies that properly belonged to certain investors were used to continue to
28 pay interest on investments made by other investors in an attempt to cover

1 up the fact the other investors' loans had gone into default; and
2

3 C. Monies invested by later investors was used to fund prior loans from which
4 Cetus had improperly diverted funds to cover up the fact loan funds had
been misused.

5 16. Clark alleges that Cetus engaged in the phony investment activities
6 referenced in Paragraph 14, above, for the purpose of causing investors, old and new, to
7 continue to invest with Cetus, i.e. Cetus was engaged in a Ponzi scheme.

8 **III**
9

10 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
(Fraudulent Transfers—11 USC §548(a)(1)(A))

11 17. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through
12 16, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

13 18. Based upon information available from Cetus' books and records, Clark is
14 informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that from and after July 10, 2006, and up
15 until Cetus filed for bankruptcy relief on July 9, 2008, it made payments to the Defendant
16 and/or gave the Defendant interests in promissory notes, and that the aggregate value of
17 the payments and the interests in the notes exceeded the amounts the Defendant had
18 invested with Cetus ("Excess Transfers").

19 19. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18, above, were made on or
20 within two (2) years before Cetus filed its Chapter 11 petition in this matter.

21 20. Cetus made the Excess Transfers listed in Paragraph 18, above, with actual
22 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud persons or entities to which Cetus was, or would
23 become, indebted.

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1 21. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18, above, constitute
2 fraudulent transfers pursuant to 11 USC §548(a)(1)(A) that may be avoided by this Court.
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4 Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.

5 **IV**

6 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
7 **(Fraudulent Transfers—11 USC §548(a)(1)(B))**

8 22. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through
9 21, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

10 23. At the time Cetus made the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18,
11 above, Cetus received less than equivalent value in exchange for the payment.

12 24. At the time Cetus made the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18,
13 above, Cetus was either insolvent or rendered insolvent as a result of the payments.

14 25. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18, above, constitute
15 fraudulent transfers pursuant to 11 USC §548(a)(1)(B) that may be avoided by this Court.

16 Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.

17 **V**

18 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
19 **(Fraudulent Transfers—NRS §112.180(1)(a))**

20 26. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through
21 25, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

22 27. Pursuant to 11 USC §544, Clark has the rights and powers of a lien creditor
23 and as a successor to certain creditors and purchasers which provides her with standing
24 to bring any fraudulent transfer actions that may exist under non-bankruptcy law.

1 28. Based upon information available from Cetus' books and records, Clark is
2 informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that from and after July 10, 2004, and up
3 until Cetus filed for bankruptcy relief on July 9, 2008, it made payments to the Defendant
4 and/or gave the Defendant interests in promissory notes, and that the aggregate value of
5 the payments and the interests in the notes exceeded the amounts the Defendant had
6 invested with Cetus ("Excess Transfers").

7 29. Cetus made the Excess Transfers listed in Paragraph 28, above, with actual
8 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors.

9 30. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 28, above, constitute
10 fraudulent transfers pursuant to NRS §112.180(1)(a) that may be avoided by this Court.

11 Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as follows:

12 A. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18 as
13 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of 11 USC § 548(a)(1)(A);

14 B. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 18 as
15 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of 11 USC § 548(a)(1)(B);

16 C. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 28 as
17 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of NRS §112.180(1)(a);

18 D. For judgment against the Defendant, or any immediate or mediate
19 transferee of any preferential payment or fraudulent transfer, in an amount to be proven at
20 the trial in this matter, as provided in 11 USC §550;

21 E. For an award of costs incurred in connection with the prosecution of this
22 matter;

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1 F. For an award of attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the prosecution
2 of this matter; and
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4 G. For such other and further relief as to this Court is necessary or appropriate
5 under the circumstances.

6 DATED this 30th day of June, 2010.

7
8 WOODBURN and WEDGE
9

10 By _____
11 John F. Murtha, Esq.
12 Attorneys for Trustee
13 Angelique L.M. Clark
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